

Young: Energy Is Main Issue

By GLENN RITT
Times Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Alaskans want the impeachment question rapidly resolved, but more so they want some quick answers to the energy crisis, Rep. Donald Young, R-Alaska, said yesterday.

That was the overriding conclusion Young gained during two weeks of travels across the state, from Barrow to Juneau to Attu.

Very few voters, Young said, want impeachment of President Nixon at this time. "On the whole, they want to wait and hear what the Judiciary Committee has to offer in hard evidence," the freshman Republican added.

At the same time, however, those Alaskans talking about Nixon's Watergate troubles stressed that the impeachment issue should be brought to a head as soon as possible, Young said.

The panel would be "misusing their power if they don't move by April," as Chairman Peter Rodino, D-N.J., has promised, Young stressed. "They were appoin-

ted five months ago," he added.

Young noted, during an interview on his first day back in Washington, that energy, the state of the economy and disposition of the D-2 lands in Alaska were uppermost in Alaskans' minds.

In addition, he heard numerous complaints about Congress' performance, particularly in light of its failure to pass the emergency energy bill before it recessed just prior to Christmas.

Looking ahead to the new session, Young stressed that Congress has a "golden opportunity" to reassert its power due to the weakened position of President Nixon who is weighed down by Watergate.

Young, who has been sharply critical of Congress' slow pace and of its democratic leadership, said "we must move now when we have a chance."

He said that Nixon has "lost a lot of leverage" because of the impeachment threat and "he won't be able to regain his credibility at a mandate level."

Young stressed that he has not made up his mind on the impeachment question, saying that he does not have the right to speak out prior to hearing the Judiciary Committee's evidence on the House floor. "This is the only true statesman's position," he said.

The Alaska lawmaker also said that voters are going to demand some answers to the energy crisis. "They want to know whether they are going to have fuel for tourism, construction, planes and homes," he said.

The Senate will take up — possibly as early as today the emergency energy bill including provisions to prohibit windfall profits by oil companies.

Senators' Support Takes Rise

Times Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Both Alaska's senators' support for President Nixon rose in 1973, even though Congress as a whole said "no" to him more often last year than ever before, Congressional Quarterly magazine reports.

Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, supported Nixon on 57 per cent of 185 roll call votes, an increase of three per cent over his 1972 support scene; Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska,